



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

**Steven L. Beshear, Governor**

**Leonard K. Peters, Secretary**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Kentucky to receive grant to further research into carbon capture technologies from coal-fired power plants**

**FRANKFORT, Ky. – (Aug. 15, 2011)** – The Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet (EEC) was notified today that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has awarded a \$14.5 million grant for further development in researching ways to reduce the cost and improve the efficiency of advanced carbon capture systems used at coal-fired power plants. The grant is being awarded to the University of Kentucky Research Foundation and will be headed by the Power Generation group at UK's Center for Applied Energy Research (CAER) in Lexington. The project will demonstrate a carbon dioxide capture system that uses an innovative heat integration method that takes advantage of waste heat from existing fossil power plant technologies.

“This funding announcement is good news for UK, but more important, it is good news for all Kentuckians,” said Gov. Steve Beshear. “Managing power plant emissions from existing facilities is necessary to ensure our traditional manufacturing economy, our mining industry, and our citizens can prosper in the face of increasingly more stringent federal regulations.”

According to a DOE release, “the overall goal of the research is to develop carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) capture and separation technologies that can achieve at least 90 percent CO<sub>2</sub> removal at no more than a 35 percent increase in the cost of electricity. This would represent a significant improvement over projected increases in electricity costs using existing technologies.” Kentucky’s electricity

generating sector produced approximately 86 million metric tons of carbon dioxide in 2009, seventh most in the U.S.

“This funding announcement is significant for Kentucky as a whole. Finding ways to use coal more cleanly in a cost-competitive manner is a crucial element of our state’s future, and we committed our support for this type of project in Governor Beshear’s comprehensive energy plan,” said EEC Secretary Len Peters. “We have pledged to work with the University of Kentucky’s Center for Applied Energy Research and industry partners on project planning and provided funding through approval from the Kentucky General Assembly. The DOE funding will ensure the long-term viability of these combined efforts.”

The DOE grant will help address one of the key strategies in Gov. Steve Beshear’s 7-Point Strategy for Energy Independence which calls for support of the Carbon Management Research Group (CMRG), a consortium of major power companies, the CAER and the EEC.

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